

## Farmers Fight Cut in Prices To Producers

Twelve Demands for Legislation to Counteract Cost of Living Agitation Is Presented to Committee

Lower Taxes Their Plea

U. S. Seizes Huge Stocks of Foodstuffs in Storage Plants in Many Cities

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.—Opposition to any legislation to reduce the cost of living that would tend to limit the profits of the farmers was voiced before a joint session of the House and Senate agricultural committees today by officials of the National Board of Farm Organizations, representing more than 1,000,000 farmers.

A. M. Loomis submitted twelve demands on behalf of the organized farmers for legislation "to counteract the influence of the present high cost of living agitation and thereby increase food production." The farmers' demands called for abandonment of all price fixing on primary food and clothing materials, abolition of the present control of exports and an immediate reduction in government expenditures as a means of decreasing taxes.

Palmer's Ideas Opposed

It became evident today that Attorney General Palmer's suggestions for extensions of the food control act cannot be enacted next week without vigorous opposition. Following today's meeting of the agricultural committees with representatives of the organized farmers, a poll of the Senate committee showed only five of its sixteen members definitely in favor of the Attorney General's recommendations.

Those who will vote for a favorable report on the extension of the food control act to inflict penalties for profiteering and to cover wearing apparel are Senators Keim (Iowa), McNary (Oregon) and Capper (Kansas), Republicans, and Johnson (South Dakota) and Harrison (Mississippi), Democrats. All other members of the committee said they had not definitely made up their minds, except Senator Smith, of South Carolina, who has concluded he will vote against the proposed amendments.

It developed today that several Democratic members of the Senate Agricultural Committee hoped yesterday would be possible to pigeonhole the Attorney General's suggestions without a second vote upon them. The committee already had arranged to meet with the representatives of farmers' organizations today and on Monday to hear extended hearings on the advisory and Kendrick bills for Federal licensing of the packing industry.

Postponement Plan Balked

These Senators hoped to be able to put over action until public pressure began to make itself felt, but their plan was upset by the five who favor the amendments when they insisted in open session that they be taken up next Tuesday.

The campaign against the high cost of living took a new turn today, when Railroad Director Hines received a telegram from Governor Cox of Ohio asking that the director fix a time limit of twenty-four hours "for other proper and reasonable time," within which cars loaded with perishable foodstuffs must be unloaded.

According to reports made to Governor Cox by the State Public Utilities Commission, numerous carloads of potatoes, melons, tomatoes, peaches and other perishable food were found in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton and other large cities which had stood on the railroad tracks for ten days, and in most instances the food was spoiled to some extent. It was said, merchants were using the cars as storehouses, withdrawing what they needed for the day and returning any surplus to the railroad.

Director Hines has the request of Governor Cox under consideration. Agents of the Federal government in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton and other large cities were particularly active today in seizing hoards of food believed being held to force a rise in prices.

In St. Louis 42,000 cases of eggs, 16,000 cases of apples, 10,000 cases of oranges and 10,000 cases of lemons were seized on a warrant issued by the United States Attorney.

Stored Since Before War

In Kansas City the seizure of 76,000 pounds of beans, said to have been in storage there since before the war, was ordered by Francis M. Wilson, United States Attorney.

In Boston United States Deputy Marshal Bancroft, accompanied by two agents of the Department of Justice, seized 16,000 bags of wheat flour, valued at \$75,000, from the warehouse of the Market Warehouse Company.

In Detroit a second raid on stored food was made today. Refrigerating Company's plant here, netting 7,400,000 eggs and 300,000 pounds of butter, valued at more than \$400,000. The stored goods are the property of the Fox River Butter Company and the H. L. Brown Company, of Chicago, agents of the Department of Justice said.

In San Diego federal warrants issued yesterday by the Federal court in Los Angeles were served by Deputy United States Marshal W. C. Case, who was authorized to seize 120,428 pounds of butter, 9,067 pounds of cheese and 12,206 cases of eggs. The total value of the food stores is estimated at \$300,000.

Arrests in Buffalo Predicted

In Buffalo federal warrants preliminary to seizure and sale of large stocks of eggs and butter said there will be filed in Federal court Monday. Thirty of forty firms are involved, and it was said arrests may be expected to follow. The stored products are known to include 3,690,000 pounds of butter and 3,000,000 dozen eggs. The books of two cold storage warehouses indicated ownership by one individual of 11,750 crates of eggs and 700,000 pounds of butter.

Announcement was made by the Postoffice Department that the postage rate on surplus army food, sale of which through the parcel post system will begin Monday, would be the same to persons living beyond the first zone from the supply centers as those living in the first zone. This will equalize the postage to all purchasers, and the difference will be made up by the War Department deducting the extra postage from the sale price and turning it over to the Postoffice Department.

Surplus army food sold to military

## How Living Cost Has Soared

STATISTICS compiled by the United States Department of Labor, comparing the cost of living during the first six months of 1919 with that of a similar period during 1914, show that prices for food, clothing, rent, fuel and light and other necessities of life have skyrocketed until the average is about 76.76 per cent higher than five years ago.

The government made its survey in eighteen shipbuilding centers on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts and in the Great Lakes region. The percentages of increases are shown in the following table:

	Food	Clothing	Rents	and Light	Furn'ture	Miscel.	All Items
New York	78.32	131.60	13.38	45.40	136.57	75.11	79.22
Philadelphia	75.52	135.91	11.30	43.27	117.78	71.24	76.21
Baltimore	91.05	128.87	18.77	37.07	134.81	82.75	83.99
Boston	67.93	137.83	9.52	54.98	133.71	64.84	72.74
Chicago	78.29	157.07	8.04	35.85	126.94	61.70	74.47
Detroit	86.40	125.20	16.23	47.57	129.31	80.26	84.36
Cleveland	79.65	125.17	21.83	47.88	116.98	74.69	77.23
Buffalo	82.87	140.71	28.94	51.89	118.06	78.70	84.23
Norfolk	89.83	104.78	46.52	69.68	119.71	83.48	87.65
San Francisco	68.34	134.64	7.48	28.92	116.56	69.95	65.68
Los Angeles	69.74	123.26	8.71	18.60	134.18	59.11	65.07
Portland, Ore.	67.03	113.46	20.14	31.27	122.09	62.80	69.16
Seattle	69.30	110.21	31.45	51.80	154.42	71.41	74.01
Portland, Me.	80.62	103.70	5.74	38.88	126.47	72.11	73.25
Savannah, Ga.	74.17	149.25	10.22	35.49	126.50	71.42	79.76
Jacksonville	74.17	139.76	9.70	49.22	139.07	65.89	77.48
Mobile, Ala.	81.63	99.99	11.86	66.62	113.92	75.28	76.64
Houston, Tex.	85.65	134.80	4.89	37.59	144.47	72.31	80.22
Av for all cities	77.25	127.74	17.74	48.07	129.62	71.30	76.76

\*Decrease.

palities now total 8,500,000 pounds, but huge stocks still are on hand, and these will be sold through postmasters.

## No Parcel Post Food for New York

New Jersey and Connecticut Also Have Used Their Share of Surplus

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.—Because municipalities in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have purchased the total amount of war food allotted those states, no army foodstuffs will be available for distribution by postmasters in this territory, the War Department decided today.

Up to August 8 municipalities and municipal selling agencies throughout the country had placed orders for 319 carloads of surplus subsistence. In the orders were represented fifty-six cities or community agencies.

In the purchases 2,126,000 pounds of bacon, 531,000 pounds of ham, 2,237,102 pounds of tomatoes and 1,029,000 cans of peas constituted the largest amounts bought.

Purchasers in New York and New Jersey, whose orders were included in the total of 319 carloads, are: New York State—Staten Island Hospital, Syracuse, Mount Vernon, Albany, Collector of Customs New York, Rochester, Elve, Schenectady, Middletown, Yonkers, Employees Post of New York, Carlstadt, Painted Post, Elmira, Binghamton.

New Jersey—Cadmon, Kearny, Irvington, Franklin, Passaic, Newark, Plainfield, Bayonne, Paterson, Phillipsburg, Perth Amboy, Vineland.

## Profiteering by Officials Hinted

Two Employees of Food Bureau Said to Have Been Forced to Resign

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16.—Evidence at a secret investigation of the purchase of beans for the Food Administration during the war so incensed Julius H. Barnes, of New York, president of the United States Grain Corporation, that he compelled two employees of the administration to resign, the Senate and House Agricultural committees were told today by G. A. Turner, president of the California Bean Growers' Association.

Asked if it was not true that the two men "had been profiteering a little in beans," Mr. Turner said that in view of the fact that the investigation was secret he preferred not to say what the findings were.

The names of the men were not disclosed. Mr. Turner said, however, that he believed the evidence taken during the investigation was in the hands of the Department of Justice.

California Growers Losers

Mr. Turner told the committee California growers had suffered heavy losses through the government's failure to purchase beans from them during the war. The Belgian Relief and the American army, he said, bought beans while American grown beans remained unsold, he said, and, as a consequence, production in California this year will be cut off of normal.

St. Howard, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, appeared as spokesman for the committee recently appointed at a conference of farmers from Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. Denying the farmers were responsible for present conditions, Mr. Howard said:

"The high cost of living is due to a stagnation in production of many of the foodstuffs and prepared foodstuffs. Every labor strike that shuts down that plant engaged in the preparation of foodstuffs or the making of clothing that shuts down a mine or a mill, adds to the high cost of living."

Capital and Labor Cited

"If capitalistic monopoly wants enough food produced that it may be sold, it organized labor wants food produced that it may be fed, if it does nothing dandlers want enough food produced so they may occasionally eat, let them stand forth now at this time, when the farmer must deliver his 1920 food production programme, and declare by deeds—cutting out profiteering in goods and wages, going honestly to the business of preparing and purveying the necessities of life. Going honestly to the job of doing a full day's work for a full day's pay—their willingness to cooperate. Failure of these forces to do this now will be a boomerang that ere the next cycle of the seasons will effect a condition of living now undreamed of."

"Extravagant profits of middlemen and lack of ordinary economy on the part of the people generally were named by Mr. Howard as contributory causes of the high cost of living."

Mr. Howard also declared the veto of the act to repeal the daylight saving law, and said the President's statement in his veto message, in effect placing agricultural production second in importance to industrial production, would discourage many farmers and probably result in decreased production on the farms.

Legislation Recommended

A. M. Loomis, a representative of the National Grange, told the committee the farmers of the country were alarmed over the trend of proposed Federal legislation. He made a number of suggestions as to "proposed legislation to counteract the influence of the present agitation and thereby increase food production." They included:

1. Wheat price regulation and all fixing on food, primary food or clothing material to be abandoned at end of present crop season.
2. All restrictions and regulations based on war-powers of Congress, included in food administration activities, to be terminated immediately.

3. Immediate termination of powers of War Trade Board.

4. Removal of all internal revenue taxes on food products.

5. Revision of tariff schedules to afford protection for farm products equal to protection of manufactured products.

6. Immediate revision of discount and grading rules, especially on wheat, and adequate representation to actual producing farmers in the formation and adoption of grade and discount to be adopted in future.

7. Liberal appropriations for increased work and legislative authority of food necessary to extend activities of interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Trade Commission, United States Tariff Commission, and the Department of Justice, on the basis of pre-war statutes.

8. Recognition of organizations of producing farmers in making up the personnel of committees, boards or commissions to direct enforcement of existing or proposed laws.

9. Immediate reduction of government to conditions as nearly as possible approximating pre-war status by hastened demobilization of fighting forces, supernumerary government employees and the abandonment of unnecessary functions of government.

10. Enactment of laws to define legality of collective bargaining among agricultural people.

11. Enactment of laws for safeguarding of purchasers of animal feeding stuffs, commercial fertilizer and farm seeds.

12. Appointment of a special committee to prepare and issue official statements for the information of the public on the critical conditions affecting agricultural production for the coming year.

Surplus army food sold to military

## City Is Unable To Begin Food Sale Monday

(Continued from page 1)

however, that the actual selling would commence some time during the week.

He intimated that the selling price of the commodities to the public would have to be increased slightly. The New York State Guard auto trucks had been found to be hopelessly inadequate for the transportation of the supplies from the army storehouses, he said, and it was necessary to hire 100 auto trucks.

The removal of the supplies to the schools will commence to-morrow morning, he announced. Each truck is expected to make two trips during the day, carrying a total of twelve tons. The foodstuffs are divided between Port Newark, the Bush Terminal and the United States army base at Fifty-ninth Street, Brooklyn.

He gave as one of the reasons for the postponement the limiting of the number of policemen assigned to assist in the sale to fifty for the entire city. Mayor Hylan yesterday sent out a request to the heads of city departments asking them to be prepared to assign employees to aid in the work. Under the present plan, two city employees, policemen or civilians, must be at each sales depot.

"The redistribution of supplies by the army between the various supply zones was a cause for delay," Mr. O'Malley said. "We are practically prepared now, however, to bring the food to the sales depots. Our inspectors, as well as inspectors employed by the army, have examined and passed on the goods to be sold by the city. Another inspection will be made at the sales depots."

Mr. Hylan, director of the local division of foods and markets of the state Department of Farms and Markets, announced that his department is conducting a special investigation of fruit storages in New York. He said that it had been rumored that several of these storages are being used for the illicit storing of meat. He explained the investigation is being conducted under the jurisdiction of the Department of Farms and Markets, but that special powers are being invoked to enable the investigation to be made.

The addition of the Department of Farms and Markets to the fight on the cost of living swells the number of agencies to seven.

Huge Stores Charged

The other search for secretly held supplies is being conducted by Department of Justice agents. George R. Mayo, special government prosecutor to aid the local Federal authorities in their prosecution of food speculators, declared yesterday that a number of old houses along Greenwich and Washington Streets are stored to capacity with non-perishable foodstuffs.

According to Mr. Mayo, these foodstuffs were acquired and stored by brokers and bankers' clerks, who are seeking to coin the expected advance in prices into large winnings for themselves by holding over supplies. In many instances, he said, a number of clerks have formed a combination for the purpose of this type of speculation.

In one instance, he reported, a bank clerk organized others working with him into a combination, which is now holding about \$11,000 worth of food. This clerk's salary is about \$2,400. He purchased shipments of pineapples at \$2.25 a case, Mr. Mayo said, and positively refuses to part with them until he can get \$6 a case.

Federal Jury to Get Facts

"The results of this investigation," Mr. Mayo said, "will be presented to the Federal Grand Jury on Monday." "The evidence will show that the boarders are not commission merchants doing legitimate business, but are a band of bankers and brokers' clerks who have accumulated huge food stocks solely for speculative purposes."

New York City has ordered a total of 96,626,000 pounds of food, costing \$6,243,618. The first installment of this order for 21,164,200 pounds will be delivered during this week. The city ordered one million pounds of ham which cannot be delivered at present, as the supply here has been exhausted.

After advice and instructions are given by Attorney General Palmer to the fair price committee here on Monday, it is expected that the prices against profiteers by the local Federal machinery will commence in earnest.

A second meeting of the fair price committee is scheduled for Wednesday, when it is expected that the prices which may justly be charged by wholesalers and retailers will be determined.

The success of the efforts to bring the price of sugar down to 11 cents by the unofficial fixing of the price at the maximum is said to have prompted the committee to act as quickly as possible on the publication of fair list prices.

The first week of the sugar war, and fare on high prices ended yesterday, causing the prices of both to advance. Washington Market dealers asked 45 cents a pound for legs of Monday. Veal had advanced from 2 to 5 cents a pound, while the retail beef price was up 1 cent.

Outlook Called Gloomy

William Loeffler, general manager of Nauss Brothers, declared that the cent of prices, which began two

## French Make Milliners Slash Price of Hats

TROYES, France, Aug. 16.—Keepers of market stalls, as a reprisal for the fixing of prices by consumers, to-day invaded a millinery establishment and compelled the owner of the shop to sell them thirty-franc hats at 10.50 francs (\$2.10). The police were called in and stopped the proceedings.

months ago, has not been impeded by the efforts of the numerous official organizations. Emil Joseph, a veteran Washington market butcher said that the outlook for next week was discouraging. Monday's prices, he said, would reflect the growing scarcity of products during the last three days.

In his defence of the large stores being held in warehouses here Mr. Hylan declared that they are being held for export and for consumption in the months of scant and no production, and that under Section 6 of the food control act the stores were legitimately held.

"The presence of foods in cold storage is required to furnish products during the fall and winter months," Mr. Hylan said, "at a time when the production has practically ceased. The present time is the time of greatest accumulation, but we are on the eve of distribution."

"To some extent the foodstuffs now carried in the cold storage warehouses are held to supply the export demand. Large quantities are being held on contract to deliver later to foreign buyers, and, in my judgment, if these goods are forced out of storage by the authorities at this time, provided they have the power which I doubt they might cause the reduction of prices for the moment and subject the owners to serious losses. But the most serious thing is that the goods, when frozen, are not available. This would mean famine prices and a breakdown of distribution."

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Asks Clothing Inquiry

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in the present system of storage and distribution."

Quotes Control Act

Mr. Horne said that the present prices are undoubtedly made under the food control act, which also provides that dealers may hold supplies for "the reasonable requirements of his business, for use or sale by him for a reasonable time or reasonably required to furnish necessary produce in surplus quantities seasonally throughout the period of scant and no production." He said that this would probably be brought out in court proceedings, but without the spectacular nature attending the seizures.

He said that the reason for the increase in stocks this year over last is the fact that the world markets are now open, while a year ago there was no export demand. The supplies are large because there are not enough refrigerators ships available, he said.

The fair price committee's range of battle on prices was extended yesterday when Arthur Williams wrote to Michael M. Friedsam, a member of the sub-committee on drygoods, requesting him to appoint at